

From: Fromhold-Treu, Rene
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 3:59pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am writing in response to the DOJ's announcement to settle with Microsoft in the Department's long-running anti-trust suit.

There are many reasons why this settlement is a terrible idea (please see <http://www.kegel.com/remedy/> for more arguments about it), but my primary concern is that in its current form, the settlement will essentially put MS in the same position it was a couple of years ago: under scrutiny by some third-party (at that time, I believe it was the DOJ) that can protest actions by MS, but that does not have the ability to impose any fines that have any sort of impact on MS. And, just as it has always happened in the past, MS will use every available opportunity to strengthen its grip on the personal desktop, as well as data processing in general.

The only way to prevent MS from strangling the computing market is to separate its OS (including its .NET initiative) from its other products. In its current form, the settlement will only weaken the American software industry, not strengthen it.

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